

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

February 6, 2008

**CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

February is National Children's Dental Health month. In 1941, the annual observance of Children's Dental Health began as a one-day event in Ohio. In 1949, the American Dental Association held the first national observance of Children's Dental Health Day. In 1981, the program was extended to a month-long celebration, known today as National Children's Dental Health month, to support dental health awareness throughout the United States.

Oral health is critically important to the overall health and well-being of children. In fact, tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. Left untreated, pain and infection caused by tooth decay can lead to problems in eating, speaking and learning, not to mention the collateral damage to a child's self-esteem.

On February 14, 2008, Los Angeles County is hosting its first Child Welfare Dental Summit. The summit will bring together key stakeholders in child welfare and the oral health and philanthropic communities to discuss the delivery of accessible, quality and timely dental care, including specialty care, to children involved in child welfare. We need to jointly begin looking for solutions in order to meet the oral health needs of Los Angeles County's most vulnerable population.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim February 2008 as Children's Dental Health Month throughout Los Angeles County.

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MDA:hbb

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**MOTION**

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

BURKE \_\_\_\_\_

